

ways EMS can be improved, and one of the stated goals was the authorization of a "lead federal agency."

After consultation with those in the EMS field throughout the country, I believe the most appropriate action is to take our time and get it right by conducting a study to determine which current or new office would best coordinate federal EMS efforts.

Those are the major provisions of the legislation I introduce today.

Mr. President, in 1995, there were approximately 100 million visits to emergency departments across this nation. Roughly 20 percent of those visits started with a call for an ambulance. Each one of those calls is important, especially to those seeking assistance and to the responding EMS personnel. While EMS represents a small portion of health care spending overall, it is critically important. It serves as the access point for the sickest among us and it would be tragic for Congress to deny its role in improving the system.

Over the past several years, I've been privileged to get to know the men and women who dedicate their talents to serving others in an emergency.

The nation owes a great deal to the EMS personnel who have dedicated themselves to their profession because they care about people and want to help those who are suffering. Nobody gets rich as a professional paramedic, and there's no monetary compensation at all as a volunteer. The field of emergency medical services presents many challenges—but offers the reward of knowing you helped someone in need of assistance.

Every year, the American Ambulance Association recognizes EMS personnel across the country for their contributions to the profession, and bestows upon them the Stars of Life Award.

This year, 94 individuals have been chosen by their peers to be honored for demonstrating exceptional kindness and selflessness in performing their duties.

Mr. President, Minnesota suffered a tremendous loss this year. On January 14, while extricating a victim of an automobile accident, two EMTs were hit by a car. Brenda HagE, an EMT and Registered Nurse, was transported in traumatic arrest to a nearby hospital where she was pronounced dead. Ms. HagE is survived by her husband Darby and two children.

I ask that the Senate observe a moment of silence for Ms. HagE and all EMS personnel who have died in the line of duty.

Mr. President, I've talked with many professional EMTs, paramedics, and emergency nurses, and most tell me they wouldn't think of doing anything else for their chosen career. Similarly, volunteer EMS personnel tell me of the indescribable satisfaction they feel when they help those in their community get the care they need.

So, in honoring them during this National EMS Week, I can think of no better way to recognize their service than through legislation that will help them help others.

I ask my colleagues to support them by supporting S. 9-1-1, the "Emergency Medical Services Act."

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the names of the 1999 American Ambulance Association Stars of Life honorees be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

1999 STARS OF LIFE

AZ—Theresa J. Pareja, Rural/Metro Fire Department;

AR—Rae Meyer, Rural/Metro Ambulance and John C. Warren, Columbia County Ambulance Service;

CA—Marti Aho-Fazio, American Medical Response—Sonoma Division, Dean B. Anderson, American Medical Response—Sonoma Division, Chris S. Babler, Rural/Metro Ambulance, Carlos Flores, American Medical Response, May Anne Godfrey-Jones, Hall Ambulance Service, Inc., Randy Kappe, American Medical Response, Frank Minitello, American Medical Response, and Penny Vest, Hall Ambulance Service, Inc.;

CO—Doug Jones, American Medical Response;

CT—Todd Beaton, American Medical Response, Michael Case, Hunter's Ambulance Service, and John M. Gopalan, Hunter's Ambulance Service;

FL—Clara DeSue, Rural/Metro Ambulance, Leroy Funderburk, American Medical Response—West Florida, Andrea Hays, Rural/Metro Ambulance, and Keith A. Lund, American Medical Response;

GA—Deborah Lighton, American Medical Response—Georgia and Kelly J. Potts, Mid Georgia Ambulance Service;

IL—Carolyn Gray, Consolidated Medical Transport, Inc., James Gray, Consolidated Medical Transport, Inc. and Cristen Miller MEDIC EMS;

IA—Paul Andorf, MEDIC EMS, Dennis L. Cosby, Lee County EMS Ambulance, Inc., and Danny Eversmeyer, Henry County Health Center EMS;

KS—Tom Collins, Metropolitan Ambulance Services Trust and Bill D. Witmer, American Medical Response;

LA—Pattie Desoto, Med Express Ambulance Service, Inc., Michael Noel, Priority Mobile Health, John Richard, Med Express Ambulance Service, Inc., Scott Saunier, Acadian Ambulance & Air Med Services, and Pete Thomas, Priority Mobile Health;

MD—Lily Puletti, Rural/Metro Ambulance and Michael Zeiler, Rural/Metro Ambulance;

MA—Daniel Doucette, Lyons Ambulance Service, Leonard Gallego, American Medical Response, Mark Lennon, Action Ambulance Service, Inc. and Edward McLaughlin, Lyons Ambulance Service;

MI—Steve Champagne, Huron Valley Ambulance, Edgar "Butch" R. Dusette Jr., Medstar Ambulance, Mary Elsen, Medstar Ambulance, Steven J. Frisbie, LifeCare Ambulance Service, Richard Landis, American Medical Response, Tony L. Sorensen, LIFE EMS, and Norma Weaver, Huron Valley Ambulance;

MN—Barbara Erickson, Life Link III and Jesse Simkins, Gold Cross Ambulance;

MS—Carlos J. Redmon, American Medical Response (South Mississippi);

MO—Michelle D. Endicott, Newton County Ambulance District and Lynette Lindholm, Metropolitan Ambulance Services Trust;

NH—David Deacon, Rockingham Regional Ambulance, Inc., Jason Preston, Rockingham Regional Ambulance Inc., Joseph Simone, Action Ambulance Service, Inc., Joanna Umenhoffer, Rockingham Regional Ambulance, Inc., and Roland Vaillancourt, Rockingham Regional Ambulance, Inc.;

NJ—Laurie Rovin, Med Alert Ambulance and Roberta Winters, Rural/Metro Corp.;

NM—LeeAnn J. Phillips, American Medical Response;

NY—Susan Bull, Rural/Metro Medical Services, Nicholas Cecci, Rural/Metro Medical Services Southern Tier, Daniel Connors, Rural/Metro Medical Services, Scott Crewell, Rural/Metro Medical Services—Intermountain, Frank D'Ambr, Rural/Metro Corp., Doug Einsfeld, American Medical Response—Long Island, Kevin Jones, Rural/Metro Medical Services—Intermountain, Patty Palmeri, Rural/Metro Corp., Carl Sharak, Rural/Metro, Samuel Stetter, Rural/Metro Medical Services Southern Tier, and Jean Zambrano, Rural/Metro Medical Services;

NC—Chris Murdock, Mecklenburg EMS Agency, Corinne Rust, Mecklenburg EMS Agency, and John Sepski, Mecklenburg EMS Agency;

OH—Duane J. Wolf, Stofcheck Ambulance Service, Inc. and Eric Wrask, Rural/Metro;

OR—Larry B. Hornaday, Metro West Ambulance, Tony D. Mooney, Pacific West Ambulance, and Mark C. Webster, American Medical Response—Oregon;

PA—Jerry Munley, Rural/Metro Medical Services;

SD—Travis H. Spier, Rural/Metro Medical Services—South Dakota;

TN—Brian C. Qualls, Rural/Metro and Rodney B. Ward, Rural/Metro—Memphis;

TX—Robert Moya, American Medical Response, Luis Salazar, Life Ambulance Service, and Mike Sebastian, Life Ambulance Service;

UT—Monica Masterson, Gold Cross Services and Robert Torgerson, Gold Cross Services;

VT—John G. Potter, Regional Ambulance Service, Inc.;

VA—Beverly Leigh, American Medical Response—Richmond;

WA—Jack N. Erickson, Olympic Ambulance, Gary D. McVay, American Medical Response—Washington, Aaron J. Schmidt, Olympic Ambulance Service, and Rand P. Whitney, Rural/Metro Ambulance.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has